

## **SAFETY**

You are returning from a high threat, high-risk tactical operation into a much more controlled environment. You must consciously and deliberately approach risk decisions from a different perspective in order to protect yourself, your soldiers, and your loved ones. Utilize the CD for re-educating yourself and those under your responsibility. Review and understand GEN Bell's safety intent, Command Policy Letter #3. The following areas are reemphasized as keys to your Central Region accident prevention effort.

**Risk Management** – This applies to everything you do – both on and off duty. You've made it home and you might be tempted to think that you can do anything. Don't be fooled. Things here can kill you just as easily as enemy action. So adjust your assessments and decisions to reflect the threats in the regulated Central Region environment. For example, family trips are not made under threat of hostile fire, but speed, drowsiness, alcohol and lack of seatbelt use are all waiting in ambush. Decisions on driving technique, trip length, weather, traffic and route must be adjusted accordingly. Operationally, pass risk decisions to the appropriate level.

**POV Safety** - You are out of practice with driving under "normal" central region conditions. There are rules of the road, and they are enforced. Refresh yourself on the rules, especially right of way, and adjust your speed to the conditions. Review the Driving in Europe film and get briefed on local and seasonal driving issues.

**Seat belts** – While deployed, some high threat operational risk decisions allowed you to forget your seat belt. Those risk decisions are not valid in Central Region. All persons, in all vehicles, must wear seat belts at all times.

Drinking and driving - Although one might think of Europe as the land of free-flowing beer, schnapps and wine, there are severe penalties for driving under the influence. The threshold is also very low – 0.5 mg pro mille (.05%) carries an administrative penalty and a level of 0.8 mg pro mille (.08%) carries a criminal penalty. If you refuse a test, it's an automatic suspension. Don't drink and drive. US Forces are enforcing the Booze It and Lose It campaign. There's a lot more than a license to be lost by being caught driving under the influence. Use a designated driver, or take public transportation. For example, you can easily take the train to Munich or to beautiful towns throughout the vineyard regions. Many people speak English; so don't hesitate to try it. It's great for traveling as a group

**Ride Home/Designated Driver Programs** – These programs work. Use them and encourage your soldiers to use them.

**Standards** - There is no reason to bend the rules in Europe. Ensure that you and your soldiers know the standards, train to the standards, and adhere to the standards!.

**Winter Safety** - If you are returning from the heat into a winter environment, there are two important concerns: Get acclimated to the weather and winter driving conditions and techniques. Review Cold Weather Injury Prevention. Since your body is used to a warmer climate, you may be more susceptible to cold weather injury.

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